

morning, under the guidance of Captain Arbuckle, they began the march toward the Indian towns on the Sciota. Meanwhile Governor Dunmore advanced toward the same point, and when the southern wing had marched eighty miles through an unbroken forest, Governor Dunmore informed the commander that a treaty had been concluded with the Indians. General Lewis marched his army back to Point Pleasant, where it arrived October 28th. Leaving Captain Russell with a garrison of fifty men at this place, it continued its march to Fort Savannah, where it was disbanded in November. The northern division of the army returned by way of Wheeling. Thus ended Dunmore's war.

CHAPTER IX.

WEST VIRGINIA DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

From 1775 to 1783.

1. West Virginia at the Beginning of the Revolutionary War.—At the beginning of the Revolution but two of the counties of West Virginia had an existence. These were Hampshire and Berkeley. In the year 1775, the former extended from the Blue Ridge to the Ohio and the latter stretched away from the North Mountain to the same western limit. Augusta county, now in Virginia, embraced all of West Virginia lying south of the Little Kanawha river and extended to the Mississippi. The dwellers here were of that hardy race cradled in the hot-beds of savage warfare, and when the Revolution came, nowhere could there be found more patriotic and determined spirits than the first settlers of West Virginia.

2. Action of the West Virginia Pioneers.—The first settlers of West Virginia were ready at the first drum-tap of the struggle, and no sooner did they hear the news from Lexington and Concord, than hundreds of them hastened to Pittsburg—then believed to be within the limits of Virginia—and, after pledging their lives to the cause of American liberty, they elected John Harvie and John Nevill to represent them in the Virginia Convention, in which these gentlemen were admitted to seats as the representatives of "the

people of that part of Virginia which lies westward of the Alleghany Mountains." The other members of this Convention, from what is now West Virginia, were Robert Rutherford and Adam Steven from Berkeley county, and John Mercer from Hampshire.

3. A Second Convention.—On the 16th of May ensuing, these West Virginia frontiersmen a second time assembled at Pittsburg and appointed an Executive Committee composed of twenty-eight of the most eminent men then on the frontier, whose duty it should be to represent the people residing west of the mountains. They at once raised fifteen pounds sterling and transmitted it to Robert Carter Nicholas to be used in defraying the expenses of Virginia representatives while attending the Continental Congress. Before adjournment they selected John Harvie and George Rodes to represent them in that body. These were the first members of an American Congress who sat for the inhabitants west of the Alleghanies.

4. First Revolutionary Soldiers from the South Side of the Potomac.—The first body of troops enlisted south of the Potomac, for service in the Revolutionary War, was a company of West Virginia pioneers which organized at Morgan's Spring in what is now Jefferson County, West Virginia. It was commanded by Captain Hugh Stevenson. Their banner was emblazoned with the device of the "Culpeper Minute Men"—a coiled rattlesnake ready to strike and the significant motto "Don't tread on me." Each man wore a buck-tail in his hat and had a

scalping-knife in his belt. The 17th day of July, 1775, was the date fixed for their departure and not a man was missing.



FLAG OF THE MINUTE MEN.*

Having partaken of a frugal meal, they listened to a sermon and benediction and then took up the line of march for Boston, six hundred miles away. On the 10th of August, twenty-

four days after their departure, they were in sight of the American camp. Washington, when he saw them, galloped away to meet them. Captain Stevenson reported his troops "from the right bank of the Potomac," and the Commander, dismounting, shook hands with every man in the company. The second company of Virginians to go to Boston was that commanded by the famous Daniel Morgan, which in the autumn of 1775 marched from Winchester and, after spending a night at Shepherdstown, crossed the Potomac River at that place.

*The Border Riflemen of Virginia—founders of West Virginia—before the Revolution and at the beginning of that struggle were called *Minute Men*, who, as John Randolph said in the United States Senate, "were raised in a minute, armed in a minute, fought in a minute, and vanquished the enemy in a minute." From a description of these men written many years ago, the following is taken: "They wore in their hats buck-tails, and in their belts tomahawks and scalping-knives. Their savage, warlike appearance excited the terror of the inhabitants as they marched through the country."

5. Military Establishment of West Virginia.—

The position of Virginia was a perilous one. Virginians had beaten the savage allies of Great Britain at Point Pleasant in 1774, but now they were to war against the Briton from the sea and the barbarian from the wilderness. To meet the former, veteran regiments were placed on Continental establishment, and to protect the western border—West Virginia—two companies of one hundred men each, to be collected in the District of West Augusta, were to join another company commanded by Captain John Nevill and doing service at Pittsburg. Another company of twenty-five men was ordered to Fort Fincastle at Wheeling, while a force of one hundred men from Botetourt county was sent to Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant. Every fort in West Virginia was garrisoned and the Western Military Department was organized with headquarters at Pittsburg.

6. The District of West Augusta.—For years before the Revolution, a part of West Virginia lying west of the Alleghanies was known as the "District of West Augusta." It was without any definite boundary until the same was defined by Act of the Assembly in 1776. Within the bounds as then fixed was included two-thirds of the present county of Randolph, half of Barbour, a third of Tucker, half of Taylor, a third of Preston, nearly the whole of Marion and Monongalia, a fourth of Harrison, half of Doddridge, two-thirds of Tyler and the whole of Wetzel, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock. Within the District of West Augusta lived a heroic and patriotic

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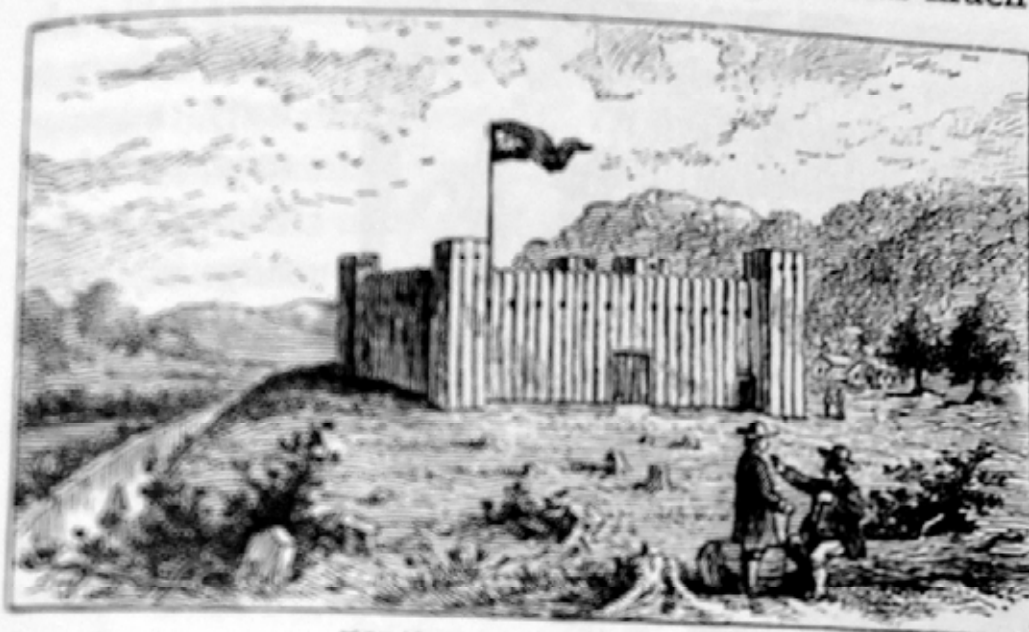
people. When the British under Tarleton drove the Legislature from Charlottesville and threatened to invade the Shenandoah Valley, a pioneer mother said to her three boys: "Go, my sons, and keep back the foot of the invader, or see my face no more." In the year 1777, the darkest of the Revolution, this incident was related to Washington and he was heard to exclaim: "Leave me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of West Augusta and I will gather around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free." A succeeding section of the Act defining the boundary, provided for the division of the District into the three counties of Ohio, Youghiogeny and Monongalia.

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7. Important Events in West Virginia.—Notwithstanding the large number of volunteers, a draft became necessary in 1776, the numbers thus collected in West Virginia counties being as follows: From Berkeley county, 52 men; Hampshire county, 33; Monongalia county, 40; Youghiogeny, 40, and in the county of Ohio a number equal to one-twenty-fifth of its militia. The Governor was authorized by the General Assembly to send any force not exceeding six hundred men to aid in suppressing any outbreak in the Ohio Valley. The Girtys and others deserted from the army at Pittsburg, and British influence was being exercised on the Upper Ohio. Later in the same year the Assembly provided for the enlistment of four hundred men, two hundred of whom were to be stationed at Point Pleasant; fifty at the mouth of the Little Kanawha—now Parkersburg;

fifty at the mouth of Wheeling Creek—now Wheeling, and one hundred at Fort Pitt, for so long a time as the Committee of Safety might deem necessary. Thus were guarded the outposts of West Virginia against the attacks of the allies of Great Britain from the West. The same year Virginia was first laid off in Senatorial Districts, two of which were in West Virginia. These were the twenty-third and twenty-fourth, the former embracing Berkeley and Hampshire counties and the latter the District of West Augusta. The town of Warm Springs in Berkeley county, now Berkeley Springs in Morgan county, was established by Act of the Assembly in 1776, on lands of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the same having been surveyed by George Washington thirty years before. In this last named year, Moorefield, then in Hampshire, but now the seat of justice of Hardy county, was established a town on lands of Conrad Moore, from whom it was named.

1. Indian Siege of Fort Henry.—Patrick Henry, in 1776, became the first Commonwealth Governor of Virginia, and in his honor the name of the fort at Wheeling was changed from Fincastle to that of Henry. In September, 1777, a savage army, supplied with arms and provisions by the British Governor, Hamilton, at Detroit, and led on by the white renegade, Simon Girty, appeared before the walls of the fort in which there was a garrison of forty-two fighting men, under the command of Colonel Shepherd. The siege was continued for days, contrary to all the customs of Indian warfare. It ended in failure for

the British cause, for it was unquestionably one of the battles of the Revolution. The Tory whites and savages, who thus laid siege to the fort, were as much



FORT HENRY.—1777.

the mercenary troops of Great Britain as were the Hessians and Waldeckers, who fought at Bennington, Saratoga and in New Jersey. The defense of Fort Henry was one of the most heroic achievements recorded in border warfare.

* Fort Henry at Wheeling was first called "Fort Fincastle," deriving its name from "Fincastle," the country home of Lord Bute in England. The fort was planned by Colonel George Rogers Clark, and its erection commenced by Ebenezer Zane and John Caldwell in the spring of 1774. The work was prosecuted by Major Angus McDonald, who in midsummer of the above named year, was joined by Colonel William Crawford, with a force of two hundred men, who soon thereafter completed the stockade fort. Then Lord Dunmore arrived September 30th of the same year, with twelve hundred men, seven hundred of whom came by water down the Monongahela and Ohio, and five hundred marched overland with the army supplies. The red uniforms of the British army were numerous in and around the fort that day.

3. Major Samuel McCulloch's Loop.—While the garrison of Fort Henry was most closely maintained,



McCulloch's Loop.

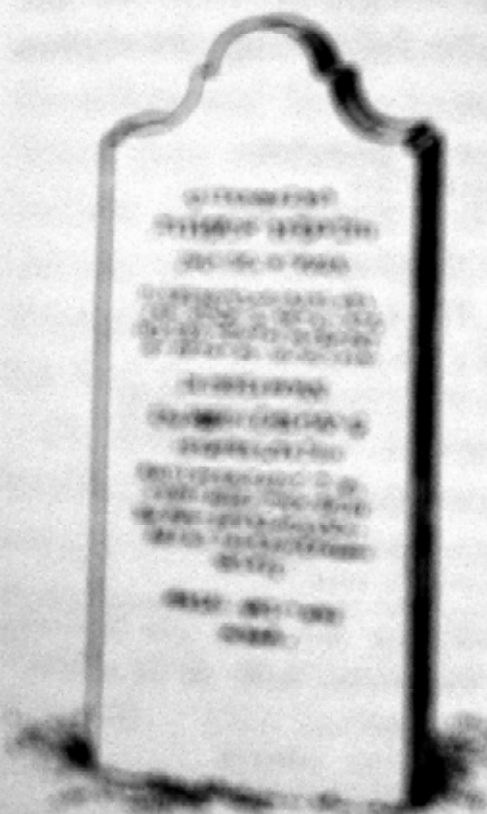
Major Samuel McCulloch, with a force of forty mounted men, came from Short Creek—now in Boone county—to the relief of the garrison. The gate was thrown open, but McCulloch was not permitted to enter. The savages attempted to close around him, and he dashed away to Wheeling Hill. Having reached the point on the summit where the tail-gate of the Fulton road is now situated, he found the Ir-

diens in the front and rear with an almost perpendicular precipice of one hundred and fifty feet

down on his right, with Wheeling Creek at its base, supporting his rifle in his right hand and carefully adjusting the reins in the other, he urged the horse to the brink and made a leap for life. The next moment the noble steed, still bearing his intrepid rider, was at the foot of the steep descent. A dash down the valley of the creek, around the hill, and the soldier was safe within the walls of the beleaguered fort.

11. Slaughter of Captain Foreman and his Men.
—Captain William Foreman, a brave and meritorious

officer, organized a company of volunteers in Hampshire county, and in the autumn of 1777, marched from Romney to Wheeling and went into winter-quarters. Several families were then residing on the site of Moundsville and the neighboring hills and the savages were threatening an attack. The people at Wheeling were doing all that was possible to stay the storm, and to do this they had sent away at every alarm.



THE FOREMAN GRAVE

Sunday morning, September 27th, 1777, dawned cold

and clear. The storm continued to rage until the middle of the day, when it subsided. The people at Moundsville were all well, and the savages were all dead. The people at Wheeling were all well, and the savages were all dead. The people at Romney were all well, and the savages were all dead.